



GREEN HERITAGE

The Newsletter of Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks & Recreation Agency Vol. 42 No. 4 Winter 2008-09



If You've Ever Considered Taking Up Golf, NOW Is A Great Time!

In the past few years, the Park System has introduced a host of new golf incentives to encourage people to get out and play. These include mini-lessons at special events, an annual "Golf Open House", lessons for players of different ages and abilities, and perhaps most importantly, more discounts.

As people search for new and interesting ways to stay fit and enjoy the great outdoors, golf becomes more than just a game—it's another way to relax and enjoy better health and fitness. So instead of asking "Why Play Golf?" the question becomes...

WHY NOT PLAY GOLF?

One barrier to play is the perception that golf is an "elitist" game, enjoyed primarily by people of certain financial means or social status. This is simply not true. County-run golf courses are open to everyone. There are no pricy membership fees or application processes. Plus, enticing discounts are now available to keep the cost down. Staff at the county golf courses also work hard to make sure that visitors always feel welcome and comfortable on the greens.

Another barrier to play is knowledge of the game. Perhaps you are wondering, "How do I even get started?" Lessons make sure beginners get off to a safe and successful start, and the Park System has a rapidly growing, reasonably-priced line-up of programs for golfers of all ages and abilities.

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Maybe you are too busy to fit a four-hour activity into your schedule? Then, consider this: the typical American adult watches over 2 hours of TV each day, and spends



(left) Golf Ranger Michelle Santoro gives pointed tips on how to hold the club so children can take their first real golf swing at the Park System's annual Outdoor Expo.

(right) The Golf Open House, held each spring at Charleston Springs Golf Course in Millstone, offers would-be golfers a chance to learn about the game.

only 15 minutes participating in sports, exercise and recreation. A more balanced recreational profile could include more exercise, and golf is one terrific way to get it. Plus, if time is an issue, consider learning to play on a neighborhood course, and make it a family affair or use it as an opportunity to catch up with friends.

County golf "specials"

\$12 WINTER GOLF FOR EVERYONE

Last year, the Park System started offering a discounted winter golf rate at Bel Aire and

Golf continues next page

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Friendly Staff Welcome Golfers to the County Courses



(Photo 1) Golf supervisors and staff gather before a big tournament at Hominy Hill. They are (l to r) Golf Ranger Eric Weatherbee, Seasonal Staffer Larry Sacerdote, Supervisor Eric Kaplan, Bob Melick of Building Maintenance, Golf Ranger Bob Giolitto, and Seasonal Staffer Chuck Britton.

Charleston Springs Manager Vern Hasselbrock (Photo 2) and Manager of Golf Facilities Alan Roberts (Photo 3) pitch in at the Golf Open House.

(Photo 4) Golfers at Charleston Springs are set up for play, greeted at the Starter Booth, and monitored on the course by Golf Rangers (l to r) Jim Busch, Helene Megna (inside booth) and Bob Volpe.

Shark River Golf Course. Also, players did not need to purchase an ID card (required during the regular season to receive discounts). The winter golf season runs from December 24 – March 14.

OFF-PEAK DISCOUNTS

Depending on the course, golfers can enjoy matinee rates after 12 pm on weekdays (discounted golf carts, too!) or

special twilight rates in the afternoon. Twilight rates and times vary depending on the season.

SPECIAL POPULATION DISCOUNTS

Monmouth County resident Seniors (age 65 and over) and Juniors (through age 20) are entitled to special rates on a limited basis at certain courses.

Golf continues next page

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING GOLF LESSONS BEGINS FEBRUARY 4TH!

Sign up to receive The Activity Directory (of all Park System classes) mailed to your house, free of charge by calling (732) 842-4000, ext. 4313. Program listings are also available online at monmouthcountyparks.com.

Golf, continued

LESSONS FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES

A typical beginner lesson, called a clinic, costs around \$70 for four, 1-hr sessions. Separate clinics are available for children, juniors, adults, and women—there here are even lessons for a parent and child to enjoy together. The Park System also offers private, one-on-one instruction, and loaner clubs are available for lessons, free of charge, if needed.

PLENTY OF BEGINNER PRACTICE FACILITIES

Visit a county course that offers a warm-up range and learn how to swing, or putt on a real-grass putting green. For advanced practice, visit the Short Game Area at Charleston Springs (for a fee). Then, plan your first golf outing on the beginner-friendly 9-hole, Par 3 Course at Bel Aire.

NEW INCENTIVES FOR YOUNG GOLFERS

In addition to offering an annual Youth Golf Tournament for boys and girls, the Park System recently introduced a new Junior Amateur Tournament at Howell Park, open to boys and girls, age 15-18.



This parent-child team practices a few shots on the Short Game Area at Charleston Springs.

Special pricing incentives for young players include:

- Raised the maximum age to qualify for Junior Rates raised from 18 to 20.
- Reduced the ID card fee for Juniors (who previously paid the adult rate)
- Reduced weekend greens fees after 12pm at some courses
- Reduced rates for private golf lessons

Emily Mills, A Rising Young Golf Star



Golf Program Coordinator Bruce Gundaker and Bel Aire Golf Center Supervisor Tom Ketchum stand with Emily after one of her wins.

This past summer, the Park System golf staff took notice when one of its own students exploded onto the tournament scene. A “veteran” of the Park System’s golf instruction program, Emily Mills set a record in two of the county tournaments she played this past year. She was the youngest female ever to win the Monmouth County Women’s

Championship title last spring, competing against considerably more experienced golfers. In the summer, she shot the lowest score in her age group among both boys and girls in the Monmouth County Youth Golf Tournament. Emily also qualified to compete in the Park System’s annual Tournament of Champions this past fall (and competes in tournaments outside the Park System).

According to Alan Roberts, Park System Manager of Golf Facilities, “We are pleased that a golfer who has come up through our own ranks, so to speak, is showing such promise.” He continued, “It’s exciting to see young talent like that. She sets a great example for other young girls who might want to learn how to play.”

MONMOUTH COUNTY’S GOLF COURSES

BEL AIRE GOLF COURSE

Wall Township

Open all Year!

9-hole, Par 3 Course and 18-hole Executive* Course

The place to go for beginners or for a quick game, this is the Park System’s only walk-on course—you don’t need a reservation; it’s first-come, first-served.

CHARLESTON SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, Millstone

18-hole North Course and 18-hole South Course

Known for its relaxed setting, naturally beautiful greens, and many amenities (grass-tee warm-up range with target greens) this spacious facility has it all. Site of many Park System golf lessons it also boasts a short-game practice area.

HOMINY HILL GOLF COURSE

Colts Neck

18-hole Golf Course

Well-known to area golfers, this site is regularly voted among the best courses in NJ for its challenging layout and immaculate conditions; includes a warm-up range.

HOWELL PARK GOLF COURSE

Howell

18-hole Golf Course

Peacefully situated in a quiet, wooded area, the fast-sloping greens of this course provide an experience like that of a private club; includes a warm-up range.

PINE BROOK GOLF COURSE

Manalapan

18-hole Executive* Golf Course

A hidden gem nestled in the Covered Bridge Retirement community, this course with its picturesque holes is a great value for resident golfers.

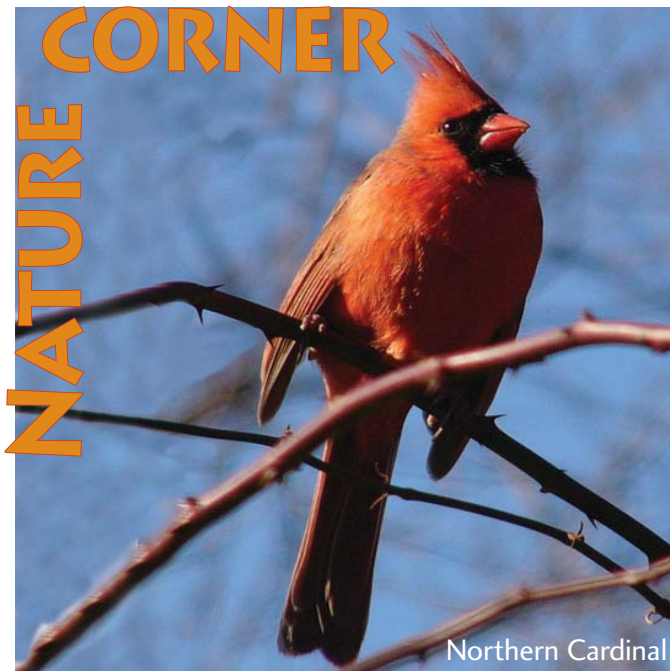
SHARK RIVER GOLF COURSE

Neptune

18-hole Golf Course **Open all Year!**

This course offers stern but fair test to all golfers with its tight, narrow fairways and assortment of demanding holes. Open during winter with temporary tees/greens!

**An executive course has shorter holes, so the game is easier and can be played faster (par is around 60). Regulation 18-hole courses generally have longer, more difficult holes and take longer to play (par is usually 72).*



Northern Cardinal

Frank Chapman's Quiet Protest (Or, How the Audubon's Annual Christmas Bird Count Was Started)

Janet Ryan, *Park Naturalist*

One day in 1886, 22-year-old New Jersey-born Frank Chapman shocked his co-workers by resigning from the New York City bank where he had worked for 6 years to go on a bird-collecting expedition to the as-yet-undeveloped Florida. Chapman had an intense interest in birds and his spare time had been spent observing them, studying their natural habitat, and developing contacts with professional ornithologists. He was on his way to laying the foundation for a 54-year career at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC where he would, in time, become its Curator of the Department of Birds.



Dr. Frank Chapman.
(Courtesy of the National Audubon Society)

During his lifetime, Chapman was phenomenally productive. He made major contributions to the philosophy of museum education and exhibit design; he published 17 books; founded and edited the magazine *Bird-Lore* in 1899 (which in 1942 would become *Audubon Magazine*); did field work in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bahamas, and South and Latin America (where he was appointed as a Red Cross special commissioner); and helped foster popular interest in birds and the out-of-doors.

GENESIS OF THE BIRD COUNT

The turn of the 20th century was an interesting time for conservation. While some people were becoming alarmed by the declines in wildlife populations, it was still an era when ladies' hats were bedecked with bird plumes and a hapless snowy owl, on a rare visit to New York's Central Park, could wind up a stuffed trophy in an uptown curio cabinet.



Chapman, an early conservationist, was especially disturbed by a holiday tradition of the day: the Christmas "side hunt." On Christmas day groups of hunters, having chosen teams, would go out and see which side could shoot the most small mammals and birds. The side which slaughtered the most was the winner.

In 1900, Chapman came up with his own original form of protest to the Christmas "side hunt." In his magazine, *Bird-Lore*, he invited readers to spend three hours Christmas Day counting--not shooting-- every bird they could see or hear. He promised to publish the results of this bird census in his magazine.

Chapman came up with his own protest to the Christmas "side hunt"....he invited readers of his magazine to spend three hours counting--not shooting-- every bird they could see or hear.

This was the beginning of the longest, continuous-running wildlife census in the world. Now, more than 100 years later, there are more than 50,000 "citizen-scientist" volunteers throughout the United States, Canada, Latin America, South America, the Pacific Islands, the West Indies, and Bermuda who participate in the Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers at all levels of experience join a field group and go out for a 24-hour period sometime during the early winter between December 14 through January 5. More than 70 million birds were counted last year.

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE: HOW THE COUNTS ARE DONE

The counts are done in defined circular areas, 15 miles in diameter, which are further divided into sectors. In Monmouth County there are 3 count areas, all of which include Monmouth County Park System sites. Birders try to cover as much of the circle as they can in one day. Counts may be done on foot, by car, bicycle, boat, skis, snowmobiles, or even airplanes! A resident within a designated circle who has a birdfeeder may do a count from home.

Home Gardener



“To see a hillside white with dogwood bloom is to know a particular ecstasy of beauty, but to walk the gray winter woods and find the buds which will resurrect that beauty in another May is to partake of continuity.” -Hal Borland

Gardening Basics For A Green Tomorrow

Winter is the traditional time to plan your garden for next year, and there are a number of environmental practices you can implement to “green” your landscape.

CONSERVING WATER

Here in the northeast, water is often plentiful. It’s not until those stretches of dry weather that our appreciation for water is amplified. No matter how important this substance may be, most of it is either wasted or polluted. Here are some tips that will go a long way to cutting back wasteful use of water...

- Recycle rain water by using rain barrels.
- Install simple, cost-efficient and low maintenance devices that turn off automatic lawn sprinklers when water is not needed.
- Avoid open grassy areas in the landscapes. If you want turf, use deep-rooting cultivars that are xeric and need less water to thrive.
- Plant shade trees/other plants that cool down the environment and reduce the need to water.
- Use self-watering planters on patios and decks. These planters have reservoirs to store water which would normally just run out the bottom of the pot. Plants grow better too because their kept evenly moist instead of drying out during the day when your at work, or away on vacation.



Rain Barrel

Continues next page

AVOIDING PESTICIDES

The most exciting change on the home gardening landscape has to be the movement away from broad-spectrum pesticides. The use of insect-specific insecticides, and a system of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), has ended the unnecessary killing of beneficial insects and the all-important insects they prey on.

Soaps, dormant oils, and botanicals are leading the way as products for our insect, fungus, and weed concerns.

Soaps, dormant oils, and botanicals are leading the way as products for insect, fungus, and weed concerns. Botanicals such as beneficial fungi, feed on the larvae of thrips—a destructive insect of orchid flowers and chrysanthemum—and are becoming more widely used. These products do not pollute the earth, or become bound up and persist in the soil for long periods of time like many earlier chemical pesticides. Another product, milky spore, is a bacteria that is harmless to mammals but deadly to larvae that feed on grass roots. It targets the pest, but does not harm earthworms or other beneficial organisms in the soil.

Soaps take care of soft bodied insects on houseplants or vegetables, and can be used safely with no residual downside. Dormant oils suffocate insects, disrupt their life cycle and have been used to combat the hemlock wooly adelgid that has decimated hemlock trees in the northeast.

COMPOSTING: A TREND THATS GREEN AND GROWING

There is something very exciting about turning left-over food scraps, a few green cuttings from the garden, leaves, grass clippings, and a little dirt into viable, rich organic fertilizer. And, it's free for the making!

There is something very exciting about turning left-over food scraps, garden cuttings, leaves, grass, and dirt into viable, rich organic fertilizer.

Composting can be as simple as forming a small pile in the corner of the yard and as elaborate as purchasing any one of hundreds



Self-watering pot

of different composting systems now on the market. It's up to you. I've used a drum-composter for years; it's easy to turn and it's at the perfect level for emptying or filling without bending, so it's easier on the back.

Compost is an excellent addition to the soil. In sandy soil, it holds moisture so that planting areas stay evenly moist. It also "opens up" heavy clay soils, creating better drainage and supplying oxygen to the roots.

MAKING SMART PLANT & PRODUCE SELECTIONS

Going green can be as simple as selecting disease resistant plants. These varieties can be created through breeding programs at universities. They can also be created naturally when plants that have grown locally for hundreds of years

develop their own defenses against pests through natural selection. Many native plants fall into the latter category, which is one of the main reasons why we grow them. Native plants are also important hosts for beneficial larvae, butterflies and other important insects. Diversity is key—gardens that include birds,



Cardinal Flower

butterflies, a wide variety of plants (including fruits, vegetables, trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses) and healthy organic, rich soil have fewer problems.

Finally, buying locally grown produce, cut flowers, and other products that support small, specialized companies helps reduce our carbon imprint in the world.

Locally grown produce can also have better flavor and superior quality than produce picked green and shipped thousands of miles.

The Ramapo Tomato is a great example of an excellent-tasting product that nearly disappeared simple because it couldn't be shipped successfully.



Ramapo Tomato



Drum Composter

It's Time to...

JANUARY ✓

- Check for winter mulches displaced by the weather and replace as necessary.
- Check for plants pushed out of the ground by “frost heave” and press firmly back into place.
- Gently remove snow from evergreens to prevent damage.
- Periodically inspect stored plants and bulbs for rot, shriveling or excess moisture.
- Keep at least a small area of your pond free of ice to prevent a build-up of gasses under the ice that could kill fish.
- If you didn't keep a garden journal, this is a good time to start one. It will prove to be an invaluable asset in planning.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by setting them on pebble trays or grouping them together.
- Carefully remove amaryllis blossoms when they begin to fade and remove the flower stalk when all flowers have bloomed. Treat the foliage as if it were a sun-loving houseplant by applying a dilute fertilizer about once a month to provide nutrients needed for next year's flowers.
- Now is the time to plan for the 2009 growing season – browse the catalogs, narrow your wish list, sketch out your plans, and make up your seed list.

FEBRUARY ✓

- Clean and oil tools now; it will have them ready for spring and add years to the life of your equipment.
- Deep Cut's display greenhouse is open year 'round, filled with orchids, succulents and houseplants; peak orchid flowering season is January through March.
- The dry, warm air of most homes can stress houseplants; keep foliage dust free and look for insects. Feed any that are actively blooming or showing new growth.
- For a taste of spring, pot up some Paper white narcissus – these will bloom within 3-4 weeks and don't require a chilling period like most other bulbs.
- Test leftover seeds for viability; place several between moist paper towels or coffee filters and keep warm and moist.



Greenhouse at Deep Cut

MARCH ✓

- Prune trees and shrubs for better health and beauty. Fertilize when soil temperatures hit 40°F, but before new growth begins. Apply dormant oil spray on a still day above 40°F.
- Get a pH test and lime any time, if needed.
- Repot and fertilize houseplants.
- Indoors, start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, lettuce, parsley, peppers and tomatoes.
- Weather is uncertain this month, so be cautious about uncovering beds. Clean up the garden lightly and gently. It's better to remove leaves and winter mulch in layers rather than all at once.
- Don't work the soil until it is ready ... when it forms a wet ball that crumbles when squeezed.
- Divide and transplant perennials, fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears. Pot your extra perennials and set aside for the annual Deep Cut Spring Perennial Swap in late April.
- Outdoors, sow seeds for cool crops like peas, beets, Swiss chard, lettuce and annual seeds of cold-tolerant plants.
- The Park System runs a bus trip to the famous Philadelphia Flower Show each March. Check our website or the Activity Directory for dates and times.



The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size.-Gertrude S. Wister

Bark, By Nature's Design

Whether you consider the bark of a particular tree to be beautiful is a subjective opinion. Bark is what it is – a depository for sloughed-off dead cells – its primary purpose being to protect the plant's delicate water/mineral and food/hormone conducting tissues, the xylem and phloem. These two lie just beneath the bark, and damage to either could be catastrophic to the plant.



Crape Myrtle

Crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia*) are large shrubs or small trees. Their bark is probably the most dramatic, flamboyant even, of any tree that grows in Monmouth County. This Asian species also sports beautiful flowers in summer.

Lacebark Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*) can grow to 70 feet though most stay within the range of 50 feet. Aside from the beautiful mottled bark, which exfoliates in this puzzle-like pattern, this tree has very nice small, dark green leaves. It is both durable and tough. This elm is a nice tree for most situations, in full sun or light shade.



Lacebark Elm



Three flower Maple

Three-flower Maple (*Acer triflorum*) is a small tree that grows to about 25 feet. It is the perfect tree for a small landscape. Described as golden-amber to ash-brown, the bark is outstanding. This tree also has very nice yellow and red fall color.

Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) has a gorgeous bark that speaks for itself. But, this species is certainly not problem-free and not particularly long-lived, only about forty years. Nonetheless, its beauty in the landscape, especially in winter, is not to be underestimated. It should be grown in light shade and in evenly moist, well-drained soil. Add a nice layer of mulch when planting.



Paper Birch



View from inside the pergola, last Spring: Staff and volunteers prepare the new Rose Garden. Wait until you see how it has come along!

DEEP CUT VOLUNTEER DROP-IN DAYS

Volunteers may stop in to assist in the park, without pre-scheduling, on the following dates and times:

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, SATURDAYS
9AM - 12NOON
APRIL 7 – NOVEMBER 12, 2009

Volunteer work mostly consists of preparing, planting and maintaining flower beds; weeding; mulching; deadheading; and minor pruning.

Learn more about gardening while giving a wonderful gift to the parks.

These vitally important citizen-scientists brave all sorts of weather—from bone-chilling cold to the fierce winds of blizzards. The best times for counts are at dawn when birds are most active. Seasoned birders who are capable of identifying a bird by its wing-shape or flight-gait are paired with those who are less experienced.



Tools of the trade: patience and a good pair of binoculars.

The compilers of each group enter the information into their data entry manuals and send them off to the National Audubon Society Headquarters where, together with Bird Studies Canada, the findings are added to a huge database which is later published. Anyone wishing to see the CBC results can find them on the web at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIRD COUNT DATA

Knowing about changes in bird populations and distribution can help conservationists determine what their priorities should be. Sometimes count-data signals immediate threats such as contaminated groundwater or pesticide poisonings.

Christmas Bird Count data has been invaluable to conservation efforts, even signaling threats such as contaminated groundwater.

More gradual declines may indicate the dangers caused by suburban sprawl, industrial development, and more intensified farming practices. The counts have shown that there has been a sharp decline in meadowlarks and other farmland birds. Also



*Western Meadowlark.
JK Hollingsworth/US Fish and Wildlife Service*



*Boreal Chickadee. Jeremy Yancy/
National Audubon Society*

declining are boreal forest birds such as the Boreal Chickadee. The cause of this decline may be deforestation by fire and increases in insects as well as by the manmade disturbances of mining, drilling, and logging.



Trumpeter Swan. Ron Laubenstein/US Fish & Wildlife Service



*Whooping Crane.
Brian Haggerty/
US Fish & Wildlife Service*

Early indications of threats can lead to timely action. Bird conservation efforts have met with success for species such as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, and trumpeter swan.

Park System Naturalist Sam Skinner who has participated in four Christmas Bird Counts says, "I always find a day of birding to be rewarding and am satisfied the time was well spent. On top of having a good time, it is nice to know that I am contributing to a global effort to try to preserve creatures that in many cases may have become extinct in my lifetime were it not for the information gathered during the count."

If you would like to participate in a Christmas Bird Count, contact the National Audubon Society or the New Jersey Audubon Society.

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More Than Grass And Trees: *Investing In Park Infrastructure*

The Park System is nearing the age of 50 and its inventory of over 350 buildings includes more than 200 that are at least 30 years old. As any person of similar vintage knows, age requires special attention to maintenance.

Maintenance projects are seldom glamorous – they are rarely celebrated with ribbon cuttings or touted in press releases. However, they are important. The only alternative to maintenance is maintenance deferral which can lead to increased long-term costs and hazardous conditions.

PARK PHILOSOPHY: *DECIDING WHEN AND HOW TO REPAIR*

The Park System has an annual program and budget for maintenance that reflects the following philosophy...

Consider quality and durability as well as price when designing improvements. It is false economizing to reduce initial expenses if the result will be increased labor and material cost over the life of the building.

Remove structures which have no practical use and do not contribute to historic or aesthetic value. Many properties acquired by the Park System have houses, barns, sheds, etc. on them that need to be maintained. Unless they can serve a needed function, it is preferable to demolish rather than keep them.

Respond quickly to damage caused by accidents, vandals, or acts of nature. Damage can create a safety hazard, prevent use of the facility, and undermine public confidence.



Demolition of an old horse stable on a piece of property acquired for the Crosswicks Creek Greenway in Upper Freehold.

Replace outdated and inefficient utility equipment and systems. Converting and upgrading utilities can conserve resources, save money on operating costs and improve delivery of services.

Consider cultural and aesthetic value in the care and maintenance of historic structures. There are 34 structures within the three Park System sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Historic Walnford, Longstreet Farm and the Seabrook Wilson House. The Park System manages a number of historically or architecturally significant structures at other sites as well. These buildings require special treatment in the design of improvements and choice of replacement material if their significance is to be maintained.



Barn structures are an iconic image in many parts of Monmouth County. This one (left) was part of a farm complex that is now a county park, the Sunnyside Recreation Area in Middletown. The Park System restored this classic, timber-framed barn (built in the 1800s), and adapted the interior for modern-day use (equipment/machinery storage). Note the beautiful circular window in front, and the new shingle work near the base. Among other repairs, the barn was lifted to replace a rotting foundation.

Located on the Ramanessin Trail in Holmdel Park, this new bridge (right) actually connects the county park to Bayonet Farm, a Holmdel Township -owned property used by many local equestrians. Linking to adjacent recreational properties helps expand public access to the trails.

MULTIPLE PROJECTS UNDERWAY AT ANY GIVEN TIME

There are dozens of improvement projects going on in the parks at any given time. Some recent examples include:

- Repaving almost three miles of the original Bayshore section of the Henry Hudson Trail to repair cracks and fill low spots that created safety hazards and drainage problems. An estimated 167,000 people use the trail each year for recreation, exercise, and a safe way to commute to work and school.
- Replacing the roof of the Holmdel Park Shelter Building; the public restrooms are scheduled for reconstruction in 2009. Built in 1976, it is the primary public use building in Holmdel Park, which has an annual visitation of roughly 800,000.
- The Seabrook-Wilson House at Bayshore Waterfront Park is currently undergoing a complete rehabilitation for use as an Activity Center. The oldest section dates from the early 1700's, making it one of the oldest surviving houses in the Bayshore region. Work includes structural repairs (foundation, framing, roofs); exterior envelope (siding, porch, windows, doors, trim); code requirements (accessible entrances, emergency lighting, exit signs, etc.); new accessible bathroom; drainage and regrading; interior finishes; mechanical and electrical systems; fire and security alarms; and related site work. Partial funding was provided by a State Historic Preservation Trust grant.



Improvements to the Seabrook-Wilson House will allow year-round programs at the Bayshore Waterfront Park. These will include nature, outdoor recreation, summer camps, and history programs that capitalize on the site's special beach and bay resources.



CORRECTION: In the last issue, this tree was mistakenly labeled a deciduous evergreen. This Larch is actually a deciduous conifer. Conifers can be either deciduous (losing needles in winter) OR evergreen (keeping needles in winter) like a fir or pine.

What Is The Park System Made Of?

The Park System owns and manages over 14,500 acres of land – a larger area than most towns in Monmouth County. Spread throughout that area is a great deal of physical infrastructure that requires care and maintenance.

- More than 135 public buildings including visitor centers, activity centers, environmental centers, shelter buildings, picnic shelters, golf centers, greenhouses, and rest-room buildings. These buildings are used both for indoor recreation programming and to support visitor use of the parks by making basic services available to the public.
- Over 225 non-public buildings including staff offices, maintenance and repair buildings, barns and other storage buildings, and utility buildings. These buildings function as the central nervous system of the Park System, housing equipment and material critical to the day-to-day operation of the parks.
- A variety of recreation facilities including 110 miles of marked trails, seven 18-hole and one 9-hole golf course, multiple athletic fields, fourteen play grounds and a sprayground, three swimming pools, 4,700 linear feet of ocean beach, docks for fishing and boating at five park areas, twelve tennis courts, two roller hockey rinks, a skateplex, and two off leash dog areas.
- Parking and roadways including parking lots, access drives, service roads, bridges, golf cart paths, and walkways. These facilities are fundamental to public use of the parks.
- Signs including facility signs, information kiosks and bulletin boards, regulatory signs, traffic and parking signs, trail head signs, and directional signs both within and leading to the park sites. Signs are used to inform visitors of recreation opportunities, to direct them to services and facilities, to advise them of potential hazards, rules and regulations, and to interpret natural and cultural features for them.
- Utility systems including sewer lines and septic systems, water lines and wells, electric lines, natural gas lines, fuel storage tanks, fuel pumps, telecommunication lines, drainage systems, and irrigation systems.
- Control structures including dams, retaining walls, bulkheads and jetties.
- Other structures including fences, light fixtures, flagpoles, vending kiosks, fixed benches, and observation areas.



GREEN HERITAGE

A 8500-11/08 Winter 2008-09

PRSR.T. STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONMOUTH CO.
PARK SYSTEM



Monmouth County's Mammals of Winter



Harp Seal



Harbor Seal